

LOUISIANA CONSERVATIONIST



Volume 4

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Number 3



Louisiana's 60 day closed season on three species of fresh water game fish, which started February 1st in 38 southern and central parishes, will begin March 1st in the remaining parishes, with the result that the ban will be in effect throughout the State during March. In the photo above a soldier surveys the fishing situation with fond recollections of excellent fishing in the past and expectations of even better sport in the days ahead. The scene is Calcasieu River where excellent bass fishing prevails.

President Stresses Importance of Wildlife Resources

Recognizing the importance of the nation's wildlife resources, President Harry S. Truman has recommended an increase of \$2,000,000 in federal aid toward wild life restoration in submitting to Congress a \$12,508,275 budget for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

During the current fiscal year, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is operating on a budget of \$7,639,325, which includes \$1,000,000 for wild life restoration.

The remainder of the increase, President Truman stated in his

message to Congress, would permit the re-commissioning of vessels returned from the military services, expansion of enforcement activities, extension of the control of predatory animals and injurious rodents, the maintenance of new wildlife refuge areas, and river basin studies in connection with contemplated irrigation and flood control dams.

"WILDLIFE CONSERVATION MONTH" TO BE OBSERVED IN APRIL

Louisiana will observe "Wildlife Conservation Month" in April and the greatest educational and promotional campaign ever staged by any State agency will take place during that month under the auspices and direction of the Department of Wild Life and Fisheries.

Over the radio, through full page messages in the newspapers and from the public platform, the importance of wildlife resources in Louisiana's future economy will be stressed and analyzed.

Full details of this program will be published in next month's issue of the Conservationist.

Closed Fishing Season to Be State-Wide During Month of March

State's Program Attracts Nation- Wide Attention

The program announced recently by the Department of Wild Life and Fisheries for the development and expansion of Louisiana's fish and game resources has attracted nationwide attention, and outdoor writers in many parts of the nation have commented favorably on Louisiana's work and progress in wildlife conservation.

Typical of the publicity given this program is the outdoor column of Erl Roman entitled "Wildlife — Conservation-Fishing", which appears in the Miami Florida Herald. In a recent issue, Mr. Roman devoted practically his entire column to a discussion of Louisiana's program for the protection, development and propagation of its wildlife and Fisheries. After telling his readers details of the program, Columnist Roman concluded with these pertinent comments:

"... That's an excellent program and the best thing about it is that it will be carried out. Louisiana's governor, Jimmie Davis, will see that it is carried out. Furthermore, it is not a hit-or-miss program thought up on the spur of the moment, but one founded on good conservation practice and recommended by scientists who know what they're doing . . ."

Louisiana's closed season on three species of fresh water game fish, which went into effect in 38 southern and central parishes on February 1st, will go into effect in the remaining parishes on March 1st, with the result that the entire state will be closed to fishing of these three species during the month of March.

The ban will be lifted in the southern sector on April 1st, but will continue in effect in the northern part of the state throughout the entire month of April.

The three species of game fish affected by the closed season are black bass ("green trout"); striped Bass ("Yellow Bass"); and Crappie ("White perch", "speckled perch", "sac-a-lait").

The 38 parishes which have this closed season during February and March are the following: Acadia, Allen, Ascension, Assumption, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Evangeline, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson, Jeff Davis, Lafayette, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Tammany, St. Mary, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Vermilion, Vernon, Washington, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana.

The same closed season will be in effect during March and April in the following North Louisiana parishes.

Sabine, Natchitoches, Grant, LaSalle, Cathoula, Tensas, Franklin, Caldwell, Winn, Red River, DeSoto, Caddo, Bienville, Morehouse, Richland, Madison, West Carroll, East Carroll, Concordia, Bossier, Webster, Claiborne, Jackson, Lincoln, Union, and Ouachita.

The law providing these closed seasons was enacted by the Legislature in 1944. It is Act 166 of 1944.

JIMMIE H. DAVIS
Governor of Louisiana



JOHN G. APPEL
Commissioner

LOUISIANA CONSERVATIONIST

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ISAAC D. CHAPMAN
Editor

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Conservation Pledge Is Sought for All Americans

To arouse all Americans to the realization and fulfillment of their duty in saving and using wisely this country's vanishing natural resources—its soil, forests, waters, minerals, and wildlife—OUTDOOR LIFE magazine is offering \$5,000 in cash awards for a Conservation Pledge, similar to the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, which may be adopted by schools and all civic and patriotic groups, both youth and adult. Announcement of this competition is made in the magazine's February issue. First prize is \$3,000.

"Leading conservationists warn that unless we take definite, practical measures to conserve our natural resources, we're in danger of becoming a nation in need," said Raymond J. Brown, editor. "Every citizen should be made aware of this exigency and urged to do his part towards safeguarding our country's God-given treasures. Such is the aim of this competition—and the biggest prize isn't money, it's national security!"

Serving on the advisory board are the following: Dr. Hugh H. Bennett, Washington, D. C., chief of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service; Dr. Thomas T. Read, New York, N. Y., Vinton professor of mining engineering, Columbia University; Karl E. Mundt, Madison, S. Dak., conservationist and member of Congress; F. L. Schlagle, Kansas City, Kansas, president of the National Education Association; W. S. Rosecrans, Los Angeles, Calif., president of the American Forestry Association; Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Washington, D. C., director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; David A. Aylward, Boston, Mass., president of the National Wildlife Federation;

Dr. Ray O. Wyland, New York, N. Y., director of the Division of Relationships, Boy Scouts of America; Paul Clement, Minneapolis, Minn., national president of the Izaak Walton League; P. J. Hoffmaster, Lansing, Mich., president of the International Association of Game, Fish, and Conservation Commissioners; A. C. Glassell, Shreveport, La., president of Ducks Unlimited; J. Hammond Brown, Baltimore, Md., executive director of the Outdoor Writers Association of America; Frederic C. Walcott, Norfolk, Conn., president of the American Wildlife Institute.

The competition is open to everybody except employees of the publishers of OUTDOOR LIFE and their families. Pledges must not exceed 30 words. Each pledge must be accompanied by an essay of 1,000 words or less on, "Why America's Natural Resources Must be Conserved." Entries must reach the magazine's offices, 353 Fourth Ave., New York 10, N. Y., not later than July 31. Second prize is \$1,000; third, \$500; fourth, \$100; with eight prizes of \$50 each.

BATON ROUGE SPORTSMEN LEAGUE ELECTS OFFICERS

Officers of the Baton Rouge Sportsmen's League were elected at a recent meeting of the organization. Those elected were Walter Cranfield, president; Jerry Besson, vice-president and Ben Skerrett, secretary-treasurer.

Directors elected included Joe Lipsey, Fred Parnell, Mike Acosta, P. V. Goudeau, Bill Stanford and Duke Roberts.

At a meeting of the League held Tuesday night, February 5th Major Charles Askins, Jr., field editor of Outdoor Life, was the principal speaker. Major Askins visited Louisiana during the first part of February to obtain information and

photographs for the publication of an article in Outdoor Life on Louisiana's hunting and fishing.

Askins spoke about the slogan contest now being conducted by Outdoor Life in which \$5000 in prizes will be awarded to winners sending in the best conservation pledge. It is just one of the ways the outdoor publications are seeking to make the average sportsman conservation-minded said Askins.

The field editor warned sportsmen that many more hunters and fishermen will be seeking the outdoors in the next few years as veterans start finding the outdoors as a means of letting off steam and he warned sportsmen about using foreign rifles and shotguns with the wrong kind of ammunition. Askins said this type of hunting accident is sure to increase in the next few years as ammunition is put on the market for these guns. Make sure what you are shooting before you go outdoors and cause an accident he warned.

Askins was emphatic in warning all farmers and sportsmen about the use of the new DDT. It is a wonderful insect killer, quoted Askins, but like a lot of exterminators it exterminates plenty of things that are helpful. Askins said that one-half pound of DDT spread on an acre would kill about everything in that acre and if it fell on a stream then many of the fish would die as a result.

Young birds and fish are the chief victims when the DDT is used without expert advice. He advised all to consult the Department of Agriculture before using DDT on a wide-scale.

Askins asked all sportsmen to write or wire their congressmen about the Hawkes gun-registering bill now before congress and warned the men attending the meeting that it was the first step in restricting the use of sportsmen's arms. The bill had a like

DIRECTORY OF DIVISION HEADS AND OFFICIALS OF WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

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Fur and Refuge

James Brown,
Fish and Game

J. N. McConnell,
Oyster and Waterbottoms

Louis Cusachs,
Research and Statistics

counterpart in England 75 years ago and over there the government eventually took away all firearms except a .22 rifle and shotgun from English sportsmen and even the police officers were forced to discharge their duties without firearms. When the threatened invasion of a few years ago was close at hand, Askins said most of the English civilians didn't know how to handle firearms and many were killed when they went through hurried training.

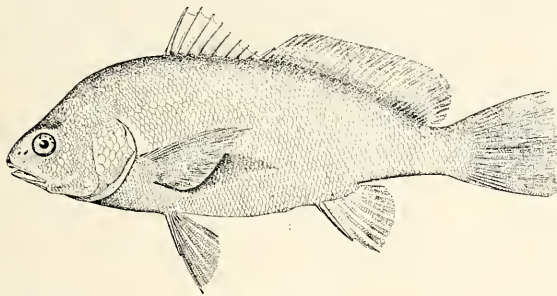
"Contact your congressman and let him know what you think," warned Askins.

LOUISIANA OUTDOOR WRITERS TO ORGANIZE

Organization of the Louisiana Outdoors Writers Association as a unit of the Outdoors Writers Association of America is expected to take place during February. Louisiana has been asked to be one of the host states when the Outdoor Writers of America meet in the Tennessee Valley, May 29, 30, 31 and June 1.

KNOW YOUR LOUISIANA FISH

By JAMES NELSON GOWANLOCH,
Chief Biologist, Fish and Game Division,
Louisiana Department of Wild Life & Fisheries



No. 18

GASPERGOU

Aplodinotus grunniens Rafinesque

Other Names: Gaspergou, Thunderpumper, Lake Sheephead, Bubbler, and White Perch (a completely misleading name).

Range: Great Lakes to Texas. Abundant in lakes and large streams between the Alleghenies and the Great Plains.

Size: Fifty to sixty pound individuals were reported by Forbes and Richardson but a 20 to 30 pound individual is probably more typical of top growth. Fifty pound fish was reported as 4 feet in length.

IDENTIFICATION: Dorsals form a single fin. Short anal fin has 2 spines.

DESCRIPTION: A handsome fish. Dusky above, sides silver with yellowish and often pinkish iridescence or may be darkly metallic gray.

Food: Extremely fond of mussels which it grinds up with its throat plates of teeth. Also eats other molluscs and many crustacea (particularly crayfish) and occasionally fish.

Fin Formula: Dorsal 10 spines, 30 soft rays; anal 2 spines, 7 soft rays.

Bait: Gaspergou can be taken on hook and line with crayfish, and even fish bait, but the bulk of the marketed fish are taken with seines.

Value: Not very highly esteemed but when properly baked with a creole sauce is enjoyed by many. A three pound fish is the best size.

General: Known in Louisiana almost universally as Gaspergou, this fish is our only North American freshwater member of the family Sciaenidae, which includes such well known salt water species as the Croakers, the Drums, Kingfish ("Channel Mullet" in Louisiana), and the Spotted Squeteague ("Speckled Trout" in Louisiana).

Somewhat carp-like in shape, the Gaspergou is coarse-fleshed, heavy-bodied, and sluggish. Millstone-like, pavement pharyngeal teeth permit the fresh water drum to grind up crayfish or shellfish, usually spitting out the shell fragments. Spawning in the latitude of Tennessee appears to occur in May.

Like other members of its family, the Gaspergou has the ability to produce a peculiar, very audible grunting sound.

The flesh of the Gaspergou is definitely inferior to that of many other common species. The writer on occasion has had the task of investigating instances where this fish was sold improperly under the name of "Sea Bass."

The term Gaspergou is used as early as 1758 by Le Page Du Pratz, who writes: "The Casse-Burgo is an excellent fish; it is usually 12 to 18 inches; its body is round with gilded scales; in its mouth it has two bones shaped like a file, with which it crushes the shells **Burgo**, a fact that has given rise to its name. Its flesh, though delicate, is very firm; it is best when eaten with red wine."

Gaspergou, in the northern part of its range, grow slowly, taking 6 to 7 years to reach a 2 pound size in Lake Erie. Gaspergou, in spite of their coarse flesh, provide total annual landings of from 3 to 5 millions pounds in the United States.

The term "White Perch" which is very commonly applied to the Gaspergou in Northern United States is highly misleading since this name in Louisiana is usually given to the White Crappie *Pomoxis annularis* Rafinesque.

The "earstones" (otoliths) of the Gaspergou are hard, ivory-like and with a mark that fancifully resembles an "L." They are often carried as "Lucky Stones" by youngsters. As a matter of fact, the otoliths record the yearly growth of the fish (as do the fish scales) and can be used to tell the fish's age.

Fish, unlike mammals and birds, have no vocal cords. Gaspergou produce their sounds by rapidly (as much as 24 times a second) expanding and contracting muscles attached to or surrounding their air bladders.

Favorite haunts are around old pilings. Will even enter fresh water. Spines are silvery.

FIN FORMULA: Dorsal 12 spines, 10 or 12 soft rays; anal 3 spines, 10 or 11 soft rays.

FOOD: Sheephead feed on various molluscs and crustacea, particularly shrimp and crabs.

BAIT: Market shrimp are good bait as also are clams. A clam, well hooked with one of the shells lightly tied with the thread seems to constitute a particularly attractive bait. Kornfeld has found that fresh shrimp soaked in heavy brine, then rolled in cornmeal and packed in jars keep their color and are good reserve bait to take along for Sheephead fishing.

VALUE: Excellent; particularly agreeable when baked.

GENERAL: The Sheephead belongs to the Porgy family (Sparidae) to which also belongs the little salt water Pinfish, *Lagodon rhomboides* (Linnaeus). Gunter, in his valuable study of 36 Texas specimens of Sheephead came to the conclusion that the Sheephead is largely herbivorous at times.

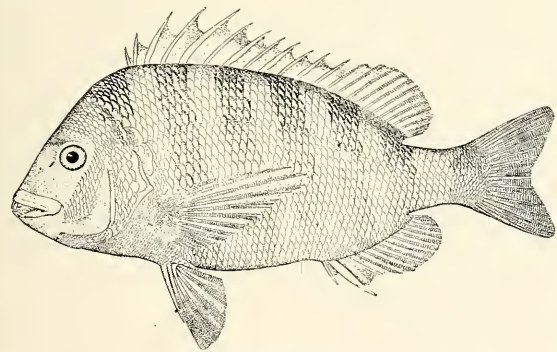
Still fishing near pilings, docks, or bridge foundations is usually productive. This species seems to be easily alarmed. Some fishermen "chum" fishing spots by dumping crushed clams there one or two days before fishing. The size of the hook, 4/0, preferably Sproat or Virginia which are better than O'Shaughnessy.

The Sheephead is, indeed, well-named as will appear if a portrait be covered so that only the head remains in profile.

Louisiana provides probably the world's best Sheephead fishing water since, for example, John J. Kornfeld of New Orleans, a superb master of the art of Sheephead fishing, caught in Bay Adams 39 Sheephead in 45 minutes, totaling 235 pounds with an average weight of 6 1/4 pounds.

Sheephead play a peculiar part in the life history of river mussels. Mussels, during one minute stage of their development, snap their toothed shells on to the fins of fish and are thus distributed to new environments, later falling off.

Production seems to have declined greatly in the last 50 odd years. Gunter gives the Texas production as 778,800 pounds for 1890 as against 8,055 pounds average annual commercial catch for 1938 to 1941. Sheephead are believed to spawn in the Spring late in the evening or at night, producing round floating eggs which hatch in about 40 hours at a temperature of 77 degrees. Sheephead look like their parents by the time they reach 3/4 of an inch in length but they apparently grow slowly, attaining 2 1/4 inches at the end of the first summer in more northern states.



No. 19

SHEEPSHEAD

Archosargus probatocephalus (Walbaum)

OTHER NAMES: Sargo Raiado, Sheephead.

RANGE: Atlantic and Gulf Coasts of the United States; Cape Cod to the Florida Keys and Texas.

SIZE: Twenty pounders and even 30 pounders have been recorded. Three to six pounds; length about 20 inches, are usual sizes.

IDENTIFICATION: The Sheephead somewhat resembles the Drum (which belong to an entirely different fish family) in pattern and shape but is deeper in body, has the dorsal fin more uniform in depth and has a longer anal fin. The Drum has 10 spines in the first portion of dorsal and 1 spine and 21 soft rays in the second portion of the dorsal (instead of 12 in the Sheephead), and 2 spines and 5 or 6 soft rays in the anal (instead of 3 spines and 10 or 11 as in the Sheephead). However, only a most amateur fisherman would confuse them.

DESCRIPTION: Back and upper sides olive, becoming silvery below. Seven wide black bands which become less distinct with age.

Suggestions Pour in for New Name for "Louisiana Conservationist"

Announcement in last month's issue of the contest to select a new name for the "Louisiana Conservationist" has attracted statewide attention with the result that a large number of entries have already been received from all parts of the State.

The contest doesn't end until March 31st, so there is still plenty of time to enter. To the person submitting the name that will be selected will go a \$50 Victory Bond. The contest is open to everyone in Louisiana and there are no age limits.

Many school children are among those who have already suggested names for this publication. Suggestions also have come from merchants, bankers, farmers, lawyers, doctors, housewives, school teachers, and people in all walks of life from every section of the State.

Everyone is invited to submit suggestions for a new name for this publication. It is not even necessary to send a letter—a postal card will be sufficient. All entries should be addressed to: Contest Editor, 126 Civil Courts Bldg., New Orleans 16, Louisiana.

SELECT A NAME FOR THE CONSERVATIONIST AND WIN A \$50 VICTORY BOND

The Louisiana Conservationist wants a new name that will typify the work and purposes of the State Department of Wild Life and Fisheries, charged by the State's Constitution with supervision over Louisiana's fish and game resources.

No box tops, wrappers or other security is necessary to enter this contest. Here are the simple rules:

1. The contest opens February 1st and ends March 31st. There are no age limits. Everyone, including employees of the State of Louisiana, are eligible to enter.

2. In submitting a new name for the Louisiana Conservationist, you may use typewriter, pencil or ink. A postal card will do. If you desire to submit reasons for the name you suggest you may do so, but it is not required.

3. Address all entries to: Contest Editor, 126 Civil Courts Bldg., New Orleans 16, Louisiana.

4. To the person submitting the name that will be selected will go a \$50 Victory Bond. In the event the winning name is suggested by more than one person, the award will go to the person whose entry is received first.

Entries may be submitted on any kind of paper, either type-written ink or pencil. The shorter the name the better. The contest started on February 1st and will end on March 31st.

Those who have not submitted suggestions for a new name still have plenty of time to do so.

CADDO WILDLIFE GROUP FAVORS OPEN FISH SEASON

A resolution favoring a year-round open season on fishing and the catch limit on black bass lowered to 12, was adopted unanimously at the January meeting of the Caddo Parish Wildlife Federation. The resolution will be forwarded to the state legislature when it convenes in May.

Guest speaker at the meeting was Major James Brown, director of the Fish and Game Division of the Wild Life and Fisheries Department.

A written request by the nominating committee that the present officers and directors continue in office for another year was unanimously approved by the members.

Officers are: Harry Hickman, president; Percy Browne, vice-president, and Claude Hamel, secretary-treasurer. Directors are: A. T. Johnson, Sumter Cousin, T. D. Connell, Earl Williamson, Patton Hawkins, W. H. Johnson, Jerry Smith, Aaron Selber, Arthur Davis, Arthur Birdwell, Howell Flournoy and Fred Hamiter.

OUR FUR BEARING ANIMALS

(From the Minden Herald)

Louisiana has a new fur bearing animal in the Coypu to go along with the mink, muskrat, otter and raccoon. Muskrat has always been the king of our fur producing animals, surpassing all other fur bearers in the state. For many years trapping and sale of fur bearing animals has been a large income in the state.

Introduction of the Coypu was brought about by E. E. McIlhenny of Avery Island about ten years ago. He was familiar with the animal in the South American countries and imported eight pairs and turned them loose in 1937. To date the animals have moved as far north as the marshes of the Sabine river.

Fur of the Coypu is known on the market as nutria and is important in the world's fur trade. It is brown in color with a soft velvety undercoat and longer rather harsh guard hairs. The outer coat is sometimes plucked leaving a soft fur. Experts state that the skin is not quite as strong and durable as the muskrat but provides a very satisfactory fur.

But Louisiana trappers will probably stick to the muskrat for a long time. An article on the Coypu, both interesting and informative appears in the January issue of the Louisiana Conservationist.

Louisiana's quail season ended on February 20th.

ANNOUNCE OBJECTIVES OF JUNIOR WILDLIFE CLUBS

Objectives and purposes of the Junior Wildlife Clubs soon to be organized in Louisiana as an educational service of the Wild Life and Fisheries Department have just been announced. Considerable detail work of planning has just been about completed, and the actual organization of the first club will get under way during the month of February.

For the present, the clubs will be limited to boys. Later on the Department plans to organize similar clubs with girls as members. The clubs are to be organized through the schools and each will be in charge of one or more counselors to be suggested by sportsmen groups in the parish or other civic organizations where they are not actively organized sportsmen groups.

This new program is under the supervision of the Department's

Division of Education and Publicity, and in charge of actual organization of the junior clubs is Walter L. Rather, Jr., a former school teacher and ex-service man.

Projects destined to interest the members in all phases of wildlife conservation, with many field trips during the summer to study fish identification, and other phases of the outdoors, are being planned.

Objectives of the organization are as follows:

Participation — To provide a means whereby all boys of the State who so desire may be members of an active organization, providing opportunity for them to develop good citizenship and group cooperation, and giving opportunity for each boy, as an individual, to participate in a planned worthwhile organization, sufficiently supported by the Department of Wild Life and Fisheries and assisted by local civic groups,

that each club will feel its importance as a part of a state-wide functioning organization.

Contribution—To be a nucleus of good wildlife improvement practices, mindful that young people of today will be the active sportsmen of tomorrow, giving full opportunity for boys to directly contribute to and aid in a state-wide long term, planned game and fish improvement program.

Appreciation—For each boy to feel his individual responsibility as an active sportsman, now and in the future. For him to be mindful that the active participation in the state wildlife improvement program is necessary, first, in the planning of a state program in his capacity as an active citizen and sportsman, second, in assisting in the rooting out of deliberate violations, third, in personally following the spirit and letter of state game and fish regulations, and

finally in realizing the need for every sportsman to do his part in carrying on definite wise wildlife conservation projects both in his community and state.

Organization of the first Junior Wildlife Clubs will be done on a geographical basis. One club will be organized in Northeast Louisiana, one in the Northwestern part of the state; another in the central part; another in the southeastern part, and another in the southwestern part, so that there will be at least one active club in each part of the state before the schools close for the summer and before concerted mass organization of junior clubs will begin.

For the present the organization will be known as Junior Wildlife Clubs of Louisiana. Later when there are sufficient clubs organized, the boys will be given an opportunity to decide upon another name if they so desire.

State To Have Nation's Finest Waterfowl Exhibit

A permanent exhibit of wild waterfowl, which is expected to be one of the most complete and most colorful exhibits of its kind anywhere in the nation, is now being set up in the permanent State Exhibit Building at the Louisiana State Fair Grounds in Shreveport. The Exhibit Building is under the supervision of the State Department of Agriculture and the waterfowl project is a joint undertaking of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Wild Life and Fisheries.

The exhibit will occupy the largest dome-shaped exhibit space in the building and the display will contain 39 species and nearly 100 birds.

Placed in natural settings, ducks, geese and all wild fowl in the dome will be almost a check list of migratory waterfowl east of the Rockies, according to H. B. Wright, curator of the Louisiana State Exhibit Building.

The dome is 30 feet long, 11 feet deep and 11 feet high and is of all metal construction. After being heavily plastered, it received four coats of priming paint.

In it will be a marsh scene on the Gulf Coast, with vegetations and feeding grounds arranged as they grow in the birds' natural southern habitats. The background will be a painted scene looking out on marshes, with hundreds of birds in the air and drinking from improvised pools.

A great mural planned to go above the dome will depict North America, showing nesting grounds and flyways, or the migratory route, from Greenland down to the Gulf Coast.

Two glassed-in cases in front of the dome will contain educational data on the exhibit, with special bill, head and feet specimens to explain differences in the various waterfowl displayed. Actual specimens in the foreground will be duplicated in the background. They will be shown in the air and bathing in artificial water.

A. C. Glassell, past president of Ducks Unlimited, has worked more than two years in helping to collect wild waterfowl for this exhibit. The Department of Wild Life and Fisheries has also assisted greatly in collecting and assembling various species. Many rare specimens of waterfowl are now being collected in various parts of the country through the cooperation of State Fish and Game Departments in those States. Com-

missioner John G. Appel recently wrote a number of Fish and Game Departments in other states asking their assistance in obtaining specimens that are needed to complete this waterfowl group.

The taxidermy work, mounting and preparing the specimens, is being done by the Department's Division of Education and Publicity. Some of the earlier work was done by the Division's taxidermy staff at the Department's Wildlife Museum in New Orleans, but in order to facilitate the work, and prepare the specimens so that they will fit in the proper places in the exhibit, a taxidermist has been assigned to work in the Exhibit Building in Shreveport, and he has made considerable progress during the three months he has been at work on the project.

This taxidermist assigned to the Shreveport exhibit is Ambrose P. Daigre, who recently returned to the Division of Education and Publicity, after serving nearly three years in the navy.

Everything from the ordinary mallard to the wood duck, which

many ornithologists claim to be the most beautiful of all wild waterfowl, will be contained in the exhibit, including specimens which are rare in Louisiana. Some species will be duplicated in the exhibit in order to show particular characteristics, and colors will range from those that blend with marsh grasses and cat-tails to gaudy-hued blues and greens.

It will take considerable time to complete the exhibit, on which much progress has already been made, but when it is completed, Louisiana will have one of the finest and most complete waterfowl exhibits of its kind in the nation.

NEW ORLEANS SPORTSMEN LEAGUE ELECTS OFFICERS

Officers of the New Orleans Sportsmen's League were elected at the January meeting of the organization. Re-elected president of the group was John Reilly. Other officers named were Richard Jones, vice-president; Angus Eason, secretary, and Clifton Bridgeman, treasurer.

Annual Census of Ducks Taken in Louisiana

The annual census of ducks and migratory waterfowl in Louisiana has been completed and hunters in this state are awaiting announcement of the results which are to be made by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Quite a number of State Wildlife enforcement agents took part in the census, which was under the supervision of Biologist Bob Smith of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Work of taking the census started shortly after the end of the duck season on January 20th. The seaplane of the Wild Life and Fisheries Department was used as well as a number of boats.

The shooting of American robins—thousands of which are in Louisiana at this time of the year, is illegal under both state and federal laws. Many arrests have already been made.



—Photo Courtesy Shreveport Times

Taxidermist-Artist Ambrose P. Daigre in his workshop in the State Exhibits Building in Shreveport with some of the specimens he is preparing for the waterfowl exhibit, which when completed, is expected to be one of the finest in the country. Daigre is a staff member of the Division of Education and Publicity and has been assigned to the project, which is a joint undertaking of the State Department of Agriculture and the Department of Wild Life and Fisheries.



WITH THE MEN IN THE FIELD

Reports of Arrests and Activities of Wild Life Enforcement Agents



AGENTS PARTICIPATING IN JANUARY ARRESTS

Cliff Andrus.....	4
J. W. Bates.....	23
Lupton J. Bergeron.....	8
Joseph Billiot.....	4
Lever Bird.....	22
John Busalacchi.....	8
Edward Carline.....	8
Sam Chaze.....	8
Edgar J. B. Clements.....	1
Richard Clements.....	3
Earnest Coats.....	13
Ruben Davis.....	1
Seabe L. Dixon.....	6
Tom C. Duck.....	1
C. W. Elam.....	1
D. L. Farrar.....	1
John E. Folkes.....	4
John W. Gilbert.....	5
Lesma Hebert.....	9
Allen Hawsey.....	2
E. B. Head.....	2
Clarence Hood.....	4
P. F. Huddleston.....	1
Maurice Huval.....	3
Voladia Jones.....	4
W. M. Jones.....	6
B. P. LeBlanc.....	1
Lou's Leleux.....	7
W. J. McCauley.....	1
Jas. R. McFerrin.....	4
Spencer Maxwell.....	2
J. O. Mayeaux.....	2
R. S. Millikin.....	2
Earl Nugent.....	6
Wilfred Nunez.....	4
Chas. Olano.....	18
Robt. Pertuis.....	11
Armand Petit.....	6
W. J. Plattsmier.....	15
Ben Price.....	3
Cliff Reeves.....	5
Harry Reno.....	22
Geo. Sevario.....	1
Lawrence Sintes.....	2
Ferdie Trouillie.....	10
Chas. Ventrella.....	4
Hector Waguespack.....	6

TYPES OF VIOLATIONS WHICH OCCURRED DURING JANUARY

Possessing Undersize Game
Possessing Undersize Commercial Fish
Commercial Fishing—No License
Selling Game Fish
Hunting Without License
Hunting at Night
Hunting with Unplugged Gun
Hunting Migratory Waterfowl—Illegal Hours
Hunting Migratory Waterfowl With Live Decoys

Hunting Migratory Waterfowl—Closed Season
Hunting Doves—Closed Season
Hunting on State Preserve
Trapping Without License
Trapping Out of Season
Killing Fur Bearing Animals With Gun
Killing Song Birds
Killing Robins

PARISHES IN WHICH VIOLATIONS OCCURED DURING JANUARY

Acadia	Morehouse
Ascension	Orleans
Avoyelles	Point Coupee
Beauregard	Rapides
Caldwell	Red River
DeSoto	St. Charles
E. Baton Rouge	St. James
East Carroll	St. John
East Feliciana	St. Landry
Grant	St. Martin
Iberia	St. Tammany
Iberville	Tangipahoa
Jackson	Tensas
Jefferson Davis	Terrebonne
Lafourche	Vermilion
Lincoln	W. Baton Rouge
Madison	Winn

WILDLIFE AGENTS MAKE 140 ARRESTS IN JANUARY

A total of 140 arrests were made in January by enforcement agents of the Wild Life and Fisheries Department. The arrests were made in 34 parishes in the State and the violations were varied in nature. Some of the violations were hunting without license, hunting migratory waterfowl after closed season, trapping without license, trapping out of season, hunting on state preserves, and selling game fish.

THUMBNAILED SKETCH OF WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES PROGRAM

1. Control of the water hyacinth.
2. Predator Control.
3. Enlarged fish rescue and fish restocking.
4. Expansion of wildlife and fisheries education and public relations.
5. Enlarged enforcement program.
6. Establishment of public shooting grounds.

Wildlife Agent Cited for Service Beyond Line of Duty

Duties of Wildlife Enforcement Agents are many and varied and quite often they do many good things that might be considered not exactly in line of their prescribed duties. Not often do these things come to public attention, because the agents themselves, as a general rule, are a modest group, and others who know about such acts, just fail to say anything about it.

But a pat on the back every once in a while, especially for services beyond the line of duty, doesn't hurt, and there is one man in Louisiana who appreciates what one enforcement agent did for him and he wants everyone to know about it. Here is the story in brief:

Mr. O. B. Perot of Waco, Texas shipped a number of bird dogs to Mr. Huckaby, who lives in Bienville Parish. The dogs were addressed to Gibsland, La., but through some error the dogs got shipped to Gibson, La., where they escaped from the express company. The dogs were certainly lost and needed a friend, when they were picked up by Agent Lupton J. Bergeron, who lives in Labadieville. Agent Bergeron immediately notified Mr. Perot, who shipped the dogs, and whose address he got from the collars, and Mr. Perot, in turn got in touch with Mr. Huckaby who came to Labadieville to get his dogs.

In writing Mr. J. C. LeBlanc, Director of the Department's Enforcement Division, about the incident, Mr. Huckaby stated that when he arrived in Labadieville inquiring as to how to find Agent Bergeron he found "that he is highly respected and the citizens could not get over the fact that I was so fortunate for the dogs to fall into his hands.

"As you know", Mr. Huckaby continued. "I love a good bird dog and you can imagine to a small extent how happy I am to have these dogs back. It is indeed a pleasure to know that you have men like Bergeron on your force.

He was on patrol Saturday night when I called for the dogs, and did not have the pleasure of meeting him".

THE LONG AND SHORT OF ANIMAL LIFE

The age limits of animals, birds, fishes and insects have always provided an interesting subject for students of natural history. The May-fly, according to a competent researcher, is said to have the shortest span of life. This common *Ephemera vulgata* emerges from the water in thousands for a wedding dance of an afternoon, lay their eggs, and die.

"But these performances," he said, "occur only in the final phase of a comparatively long life-history." The May-fly hatches as a small wingless larva with six legs and three tails and dwells in the stream from one to three years before emerging in his final adult form.

"Animals which are really long-lived are comparatively few," he continued. "Here are some of the figures estimated by competent authorities:

Giant tortoise, 200 years; carp, 150 years; vulture, 118 years; eagle, 104 years; whale, 100 years; salmon, 100 years; crow, 100 years; parrot, 100 years; raven, 100 years; man, 100 years; shark, 100 years; Elder duck, 100 years.

"In the strong, active carnivores, 25 years is seldom exceeded. The tiger may live to be 25 and possibly 35; bear up to 25 and 40; sea lion 17; cat 9 to 10 and sometimes much older; dog 10 to 15 and, rarely, up to 35; hyena, jackal and fox 14; badger 12. The horse may live 25 to 40 years; cow 25; deer about 20; antelope, goat and sheep about 15. Some animals live much longer in captivity than in native environment. This is due to the elimination of many of their natural hazards. Others, which cannot successfully adapt themselves to the conditions imposed by captivity, live comparatively short lives.

Frogs do not drink water by mouth. They absorb it through their skins.

Louisiana Opposes Planting of Jap Oysters

Jap oysters (one will make a sandwich) will not be grown in Gulf waters. Not if the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Department has anything to say about it.

At the moment there is quite a bit of agitation on the Pacific coast as packers, now that the war is over, demand that Jap seed oysters once more be imported. A good reason lurks behind this proposal, because the native Pacific breed, the *Ostrea Lurida*, is no larger than a thumbnail. It takes about 1600 of them to fill a gallon.

But 40 to 50 of the Jap bivalves the *Ostrea Gigas* to be technical, will make a gallon. And the state of Washington has a healthy oyster canning industry. So they need the Jap oyster because no other large variety will flourish in their cold waters.

Says James McConnell, director of the Oyster and Waterbottoms Division: "Those oysters are dangerous."

"Excessively productive, they would completely destroy the native Louisiana beds if they should breed in our waters. And ours are the best in the world."

Termed "definitely inferior" the Jap oyster makes up in volume what it lacks in quality. One shell on display in Mr. McConnell's office measures five inches wide and 10 inches long.

"That is a baby one" he explained. "Most of them mature at 18 months, while most of ours are three years old before they are useable."

But this is an old story to the Wildlife and Fisheries Department.

Back in 1940 Mr. McConnell and Dr. James N. Gowanloch, chief biologist, conducted experiments to prove their point that Gulf waters are better off without the Jap breed.

They asked two big questions:

¶ Would Jap oysters breed as a species, and

¶ Would they cross-breed.

Answer to both was a flat "No." Experiments were conducted with imported Jap "spat" (oysters in the free-swimming state) and every one died without reproducing.

While this ended the argument that they were likely to take over Louisiana beds, it also meant that new "spat" would have to be imported every year. And someday, Louisiana might receive a batch that would breed in the Gulf waters.

"Jap oysters," explains Dr. Gowanloch, "are too big to eat raw. They are black and they don't have much taste. In fact they are unattractive in all respects. Their size is such that they are often sold by the pound . . . and that pound has to be sliced off. All they are good for commercially is canning."

And to prove that the Louisiana Department is not unduly alarmed, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service recently added its voice. They warned Atlantic and Gulf Coast states not to permit the planting of Jap seed oysters.

Not only do they mention the prolific nature of the Jap mollusk, but point out that they may bring with them pests such as the Japanese oyster drill, a kind of snail which is "very difficult to destroy."

Most eastern states have laws or regulations preventing the planting of the Jap seed oyster. Louisiana has no similar law, but Wildlife and Fisheries experts would like to see one passed.

Water Control Is Topic of State-Wide Meet

"Louisiana's No. 1 Asset-Water", was the subject of an all day conference of industrialists, sportsmen and rice growers, held in Baton Rouge, Wednesday, January 30, sponsored by the Louisiana Stream Control Commission.

Water control measures are practiced on 25,000,000 of the 29,000,000 acres of land in Louisiana under the state's soil erosion program, Claude E. Fernandez, one of the speakers, told the group. He explained state and federal water legislation.

There were eleven speakers on the program, which was presided over by Louis Cusachs, secretary of the Stream Control Commission, who is also director of the Division of Research and Statistics of the

Wild Life and Fisheries Department.

The history of geological development of the state was discussed by Dr. Hal Fisk of the LSU School of Geology during the morning session. "Surface Water" was discussed by Ed Rice, a member of the United States geological survey stationed in Baton Rouge. He pointed out the various uses which make water vital to all human needs.

"It is likely that no other state in the union has a greater potential supply of ground water", Paul Jones, also of the U. S. geological survey, told the group in a talk on water that comes from below the surface. "The abundance of this ground water has led to the abandonment of some of the basic principles of ground hydraulics", Jones asserted. He told of the difficulties experienced by several Louisiana towns and cities in obtaining adequate water supplies.

Water quality and quantity requirements for rice irrigation were explained by Frank E. Everett of Crowley, superintendent of the Acadia-Vermilion Rice Irrigation Company. Dr. Madison H. Sturges, head of the LSU agronomy department, spoke on the effect of irrigating water quality on rice soils.

The relationship of water to cane sugar manufacture was discussed by M. V. Yarborough of Youngville, assistant general manager of the Youngs Industries, Inc. A. J. Isaacs of Houma, Vice-president of Realty Operators, spoke on "Nature and the Disposal of Cane Sugar Factory Wastes."

W. F. Gillespie of Bogalusa, technical director of Gaylord Container Corp., gave a talk on pulp and paper mill wastes. Dr. Jarvis Miller, Baton Rouge Standard Oil, explained "Water Quality and Quantity Requirements for Petroleum Refineries." Dr. M. C. Schwartz, LSU engineering experiment station, spoke on water quality and quantity requirements for power production.

NOTED PHOTOGRAPHER VISITS LOUISIANA

Peter Koch, noted wild-life photographer, who last winter made a color film of the Blue Geese in the marshes about the mouth of the Mississippi River, was a visitor to Louisiana again this month. This time he did some photographing of migrating shore birds and white Pelicans in the lower marshes. His color film entitled "Blue Goose Flies South" has been widely acclaimed.



Some Louisiana oysters are small, some are large. But small or large, they are definitely superior in flavor to the Japanese or any other type of oyster.

Louisiana Editor's Views on Conservation

WILD LIFE CASUALTIES

(From the *Bat-n Rouge State-Times*)

Humans were not the only living beings that were casualties of the war. Creatures of the air and the sea, those that make their nests in the caves and branches, and those that frequent the deep waters also suffered from the blasting and bombing and burning, and the ravages of war in various forms.

A report from the Department of the Interior reveals that "thousands of auks, murres, puffins, sea gulls and ducks," and "unknown quantities of whales" perished during the war. One factor in the loss of the water fowl was contact with oil on the sea, "which penetrates their wing and ruins them as waterproof coverings." The whales were mostly victims of submarine warfare, and it is worthy noting that the report lists the whale as "the most valuable animal in existence." Perhaps many other types of shore and sea life were among the casualties, the innocent victims of warfare in which humans were engaged.

Also, aside from these losses, bird life and the woodland crea-

tures in many parts of the world must also be included in the casualties. Though these be not listed in official reports, one knows that these could not have utterly escaped the devastation. In the European blasting and bombing that partially shattered so many cities, and denuded lofty trees of their branches, many a bird family must have been routed from its nest, or perhaps overcome by smoke and flames. In the deep forests and the woodland stretches that were the scenes of fierce conflicts between opposing armies, the birds of the air, and the small creatures of the wildwood must often have been the helpless victims of the strange turmoil that overspread their habitations.

Yet, Nature has a way of looking after her own, and many of the feathered friends and small wild creatures survived. Some were able to fly or scurry away, some to hide in their hidden places, or perhaps the flames passed over and around them, leaving them unscathed. When springtime comes again nest building will begin amid the eaves of partially wrecked buildings, and from the new foliage of battered tree, there will

come the glad song of some returning bird, to remind worried humans that life goes on. And in desolate forest scenes, the remnants of woody creatures will be about their affairs, in Nature's age-old way.

TIMBER AS A FARM CROP

(From the *Ruston Leader*)

When the modern farmer talks of crops, he includes his timber crop. His farm woods yield him cash income. Trees grow on less fertile soils not needed for other agricultural uses. While growing, they require no fertilizer or cultivation. The sale of their products tides the farmer over lean years. He looks to his timber for profit.

During the past week groups of Louisiana agricultural agents gathered some illuminating information on forestry farming during a short course of instruction at the Crossett experimental forest in Arkansas, conducted under the auspices of the Southern Forest experiment station of New Orleans, a branch of the United Forestry service.

The purpose of the short course was to give the agents a practical demonstration of farm forestry management. Louisiana is especially adapted to this kind of agricultural project, and bids fair to become more so in the postwar years, particularly in those areas which have been worn out in the production of other farm crops. Farm forestry offers a lively hope for hill farmers who have seen their cotton returns diminish to the vanishing point.

Forestry farming is recognized as an important part of agriculture that has been too long neglected. Farm woods respond readily to the application of simple forestry methods, which permit the development of timber of good quality, even while salvaging that of inferior grade. The reason for the poor quality of timber on many woodland properties can be traced to the continuous removal of the best trees. Over a period of years, if only the highest grade trees are cut the remaining stand will consist largely of inferior kinds.

With careful harvesting of wood products, the forest farmer may practice sustained-yield forestry. He may cut his timber and have it, too; growth will balance cut. In the long run he can increase his

Louisiana to Be Represented At Wildlife Meet

Fish and Game and conservation officials from all parts of the nation are expected to attend the eleventh North American Wildlife Conference to be held in New York on March 11, 12, and 13, which is destined to be one of the most important gatherings of its kind in the history of conservation in America.

"The Place of Wildlife in a Changing World" will be the theme of the convention, and conservation experts from all parts of the nation and Canada will be on the program.

Recognizing the importance of this forthcoming convention, Fish and Game and Conservation Departments throughout the nation have been asked to send representative delegations. Many Southern States are sending four or five people, and some of the States in the East and Middle West are sending delegations of eight and ten.

The delegation from Louisiana will comprise four people, including Wild Life and Fisheries Commissioner John G. Appel. Others in the delegation will be Major James Brown, Director of Fish and Game Division, Isaac Chapman, Director Education and Publicity Division, and Dr. James Nelson Gowanlock, Chief Biologist.

In conjunction with the North American Wildlife Conference, the Outdoor Writers' Association of America will hold its annual convention on the same dates, but their program is to be so arranged so as not to conflict with the main sessions of the Wildlife Conference.

The Louisiana Department of Wild Life and Fisheries is to have an exhibit of large pictures showing Louisiana's fish and game resources at the convention. This exhibit is now being prepared and will be taken to the New York convention, and will be on display at the convention headquarters at the Hotel Pennsylvania.

profits as well as his production, and still have his woods in better shape than when he did not practice forestry.

Farm woodland should be fully stocked with high quality trees if it is to be most profitable and useful to the farmer. Land not needed for other farming purposes should be planted to trees. No farmer can afford to pay taxes on idle land.

Timber is a farm crop. It can be made a paying farm crop.

New Dates Set for Convention of Louisiana Wildlife Federation

Postponement of the annual convention of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation from March 8 and 9 to April 13 and 14, and extension of the state wide membership drive from February 1st to April 1st has been announced by W. J. (Bill) Cleveland, Crowley, president of the sportsmen's organization.

The change in the convention dates was made necessary, Mr. Cleveland stated, in order not to conflict with the North American Wildlife Conference which is to be held in New York at about the same time. A number of nationally known speakers, including Dr. Ira Gabrielson, Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, are to be invited to the Louisiana meeting, and would not have been able to come in March since they are on the program at the New York convention.

This will be the first state-wide convention of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation for several years, since no meetings were scheduled during the war. Officers and directors for the state organization

are to be elected at the April convention, which is to be held at the Heidelberg Hotel and sportsmen clubs throughout the state are expected to send delegates to the Baton Rouge convention.

Governor Jimmie H. Davis is offering a trophy to the sportsmen's club in the state obtaining the largest percentage increase in membership. The membership drive will end on April 1st, and the trophy is to be awarded the winning club at the April convention of the Federation.

An effort is to be made between now and the time of the convention to revive a number of sportsmen clubs in the state who have been inactive during the war, and to organize as many new clubs as possible in parishes where none are now in existence.

Present officers of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation include in addition to Mr. Cleveland as president, Jim Groat, New Orleans, vice-president, Dr. Ernest Angelo, Bogalusa, treasurer, and J. J. Benson, Baton Rouge, secretary.